

Mar
10

Pre-War Kendo 1: Men Waza

kendo, prewar-kendo, series, waza

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Discussions of pre-war kendo pop up from time to time with people proposing what it was like. It seems that those proposals are often supposition based on what someone wishes or imagines it was like instead of the sources that are available. To that end, I'm translating portions of Takano Sasaburo's Kendo Kyohon into English.

Kendo Kyohon was originally published in 1930, and much of it is repetition from his prior work, Kendo, published in 1915.

I plan to make five entries. The first four will be his "fifty varieties of technique" broken into four sections: men, tsuki, kote, and do. The fifth will be taiatari, grappling, and throwing. The curriculum of 50 techniques is a reduction and reworking of a curriculum of 68 techniques described by Chiba Shusaku. The 50-technique version also appears Kendo, with the only differences being slight differences in phrasing and more old-fashioned grammar.

I'd like to make one note on the translation. Takano sensei describes the two participants as "I" [我] and "the enemy" [敵]. I have switched first-person declaratives to second-person imperatives, as that is much more natural in moden English.



技法五十種

剣道では、或一二の特に熟練した得意の技を持つてゐることは、頗る有利なものであるが、得意な技に偏して、技に變化がなかつたり、他の技に不熟練なのは宜しくない。種々なる技法に習熟して、場合に應じて巧みに之を用ふるやうにしなければならぬ。次に最も基本的で、且普通に應用し得る技五十種を擧げる。漸次是等の技法を試み、之を習熟するやうに努むべきである。

Fifty Varieties of Technique

In kendo, having a certain one or two favorite techniques at which you are proficient is advantageous, but it is not good to be biased toward your favorite techniques, without any variety or being skilled at other techniques. You must master many techniques, so that they can be used skillfully to respond to the situation. The 50 most basic yet typically easy to use techniques are listed below. You should gradually try these techniques and work to master them.

Fifty Varieties of Technique

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其の一 面十八種

Section 1 Eighteen for Men

攻込み面

敵を下段・中段又は上段等にて攻込み、隙を見て面を撃つ。

Semekomi Men

While attacking the enemy from gedan, chudan, or jodan, see an opening and strike men.

出頭面

互に下段・中段等にて相對し、敵の進まんとする出頭の面を撃つ。

Degashira Men

While facing each other in gedan or chudan, strike men when the enemy begins to try to advance.

正撃面

敵が中段に構へて居り、下段に直す瞬間正撃面を撃つ。

Shogeki Men

When the enemy is in chudan, strike shomen the moment the enemy moves to gedan.

NOTE: I am unsure of the pronunciation of 正撃.

半身撃面

我は上段、敵は下段等にて敵より突き来るを、左若しくは右に抜き、半身になつて敵の太刀を外し、左若しくは右片手にて敵の半面を撃つ。

Hanmigeke Men

You are in jodan, and the enemy is in gedan etc. As the enemy thrusts, open to either the enemy's left or right and take hanmi, avoiding the enemy's sword. Strike the enemy's yokomen with one hand, either left or right.

諸手正面

互に下段・中段等にて相對して居る時、敵が我が右籠手へ撃つて来るのを、體を敵の左に抜き、我が籠手を外し、半身體となつて敵の正面を撃つ。

Morote Shomen



When facing each other in gedan, chudan, etc., as the enemy tries to strike your right kote, open your body to the left of the enemy, removing your kote. Assume hanmi and strike the enemy's shomen.

抜面

互に下段・中段等にて相対して居り、敵が我が右籠手へ撃つて来る時、左足より一歩退き、受止めずして抜き、其の儘諸手にて太刀を半ば振上げ撃つ。

Nuki Men

Facing each other in gedan, chudan, etc., when the enemy strikes at your right kote, take one step backward from the left foot and dodge without blocking. From there, swing your sword halfway up with both hands and strike.

諸手上段面

敵が下段或は中段等に守つて居るのを、上段より隙を見て面を撃つ。場合により敵の籠手を撃つこともある。此の撃方は敵の出端を撃つのが宜しい。

Morote Jodan Men

When the enemy is defending in gedan or chudan, etc., from jodan, when you see an opening, strike men. Depending on the situation, you can also strike the enemy's kote. The correct striking method for this is to strike the enemy the moment they begin to move.

片手上段面

敵が上段・中段等に守つて居るのを、右又は左の片手上段より面を撃つ。時により籠手を撃つこともある。

Katate Jodan Men

When the enemy is defending in jodan or chudan, etc., from left or right katate jodan, strike men. Depending on the time, you can also strike kote.

左相上段面

雙方共に左上段にて相対して居る時、上段より面を撃つ。時により籠手を撃つこともある。機の熟するを待ち、敵より撃ち来らんとする所を撃つのが宜しい。

Hidari Ai Jodan Men

When both parties are facing each other in hidari jodan, strike men from jodan. Depending on the time, you can also strike kote. Wait for the opportunity to develop. The correct time to strike is when the enemy comes to strike.

右相上段面

彼我同じ右相上段にて相対して居る時、上段より面を撃つ。時により籠手を撃つこともある。其の他前項の通り。

Migi Ai Jodan Men

When both you and he are facing each other in migi ai jodan, strike men from jodan. Depending on the time, you can also strike kote. Other than this, it is in accordance with the previous paragraph.

摺上面

互に下段又は中段に構へて相対して居る時、敵より我が面に撃ち来るを、上段に摺上げ面を撃つ。

Suriage Men

When facing each other in gedan or chudan, as the enemy comes to strike your own men, slide up [suriage] to jodan and strike men.

應じ返し面

雙方右と同じ構にある時、敵より我が面に撃ち来るを受流し、其の儘應じ返しに面を撃つ。時により籠手を撃つ。

Ojikaeshi Men

When both parties are in the same kamae as above, as the enemy comes to strike your men, perform ukenagashi and from there strike men in response. Depending on the time, you strike kote.

巻落し面

雙方右と同じ構にて相對して居る時、敵より我が面へ撃ち来るを、右又は左に巻落し面を撃つ。

Makiotoshi Men

When both parties are facing each other in the same kamae as above, as the enemy comes to strike your men, perform makiotoshi to either the left or the right and strike men.

NOTE: This makiotoshi waza is an oji waza in response to men, so it is clearly not the same technique as the modern shikake waza with the same name. As it can also be followed by tsuki (listed in the next section) instead of men I believe it is probably similar to the makiotoshi of Shinto Muso Ryu.

張面

雙方右と同じ構にて相對して居る時、敵の太刀の中央部を張り、其の儘面を撃つ。

Hari Men

When both parties are facing each other in the same kamae as above, slap the middle portion of the enemy's sword and from there strike men.

押籠手面

雙方右と同じ構にて相對して居る時、敵より我が面へ撃ち来るを、其の右籠手を押へ、其の儘一步踏込み、てを伸ばして面を撃つ。

Osae Kote Men

When both parties are facing each other in the same kamae as above, as the enemy comes to strike your men, press his right kote and, from there, step in one step, stretch out your arms, and strike men.

攻籠手面

雙方右と同じ構にて相對して居る時、敵の右籠手を撃たんと攻め、敵が其の籠手を防ぐ所を、透さず飛び込み面を撃つ。

Seme Kote Men

When both parties are facing each other in the same kamae as above, threaten to strike the enemy's right kote. When the enemy protects his kote, without a moment's delay, fly in and strike men.

竹刀押へ面

敵中段、我は下段に構へ相對して居り、敵より我が面へ撃ち來るを、其の太刀の中柄を押へ、敵の構の崩れると同時に、半ば振上げ諸手にて面を撃つ。

Shinai Osae Men

When facing each other, the enemy in chudan and you in gedan, as the enemy comes to strike your men, press down on the middle of their tsuka. At the same time as the enemey's kamae crumbles, swing up halfway with both hands and strike men.

NOTE: If this is the technique I think it is, it appears in the Nihon no Kobudo video of Ono-ha Itto Ryu. As the enemy cuts, you catch the tsuka with your monouchi, move it down to the back and side, then cut.

捨身面

敵中段、我は下段に構へ相對して居る時、此方より敵の右籠手を攻める。敵が中段の構を下段に直し防がんとする所を、透さず身を捨て飛び込み、手を十分に伸ばして面を撃つ。

Sutemi Men

When the enemy is in chudan and you are in gedan, from there attack the enemy's right kote.

When the enemy defends by changing from chudan to gedan, without a moment's delay, fly in with abandon and, adequately stretching out your arms, strike men.

Apr
20

Pre-War Kendo 2: Tsuki Waza

kendo, prewar-kendo, series, tsuki, waza

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In part one, I translated the section of Takano Sasaburo's Kendo Kyohon describing 18 techniques for striking men. Part two is 13 techniques for thrusting. One important point not included in this section is that Takano sensei considers tsuki to contain three distinct techniques—mae zuki, omote zuki, and ura zuki—in the same way that men is divided into shomen, hidari men, and migi men. Because of this, I will include his section on how to thrust [突方] from the early chapter on basic practice [基本練習] that describes these three variations.

**前突**

両手をを一様に絞り、體を進めると同時に両腕を伸ばし、敵の咽喉部を突く。

Mae Zuki

Thrust at the enemy's throat, wringing both hands equally and stretching out your arms at the same time you move your body forward.

表突

両手を絞り、刃を稍右方に向け、同時に両腕を伸ばし、敵の表(左方)より體を進めると同時に咽喉部を突く。少しく右斜前方に右足より進み、左足の之に伴ふことが肝要である。

Omote Zuki

Wring both your hands, and turn the edge slightly to the right. At the same time, stretch out your arms, and thrust to the throat while advancing your body towards the enemy's omote (left side). It is essential to advance your right foot slightly diagonally to the right and to accompany it with the left.

裏突

両手を絞り、刃を稍左方に向け、両腕を伸ばし、敵の裏(右方)より少しく左斜前方に體を進めると同時に咽喉部を突く。

Ura Zuki

Wring your hands, and turn the edge slightly to the left. Stretch out your arms, and thrust to the throat at the same time as you advance your body a little bit diagonally to the left, to the enemy's ura (right side).

Now, on to the section describing techniques that result in a thrust.

其の二 突十三種

Section 2 Thirteen for Tsuki

前突

諸手にて前より敵を突く。

Mae Zuki

Using both hands, thrust to the enemy from the front.

片手突

片手にて表又は裏より敵を突く。

Katate Zuki

Using one hand, thrust to the enemy from either omote or ura.

二段突

互に下段或は中段にて構へて居る時、我より右籠手を撃たんとせめ、敵下段に應じ防ぐ所を裏より突く。

Nidan Tsuki

When facing each other in either gedan or chudan, threaten to strike the enemy's right wrist. When the enemy changes to gedan to defend, thrust from the ura side.

切落突

互に中段にて相對して居る時、敵より突き来り、或は撃ち来るを、切落し諸手にて突く。

Kiriotoshi Zuki

When facing each other in chudan, as the enemy comes to thrust or strike, cut down the attack [*kiriotoshi*] and thrust with both hands.

表片手突

雙方右と同じ構にある時、敵が太刀を下段に下げろ所を見すまし、左片手にて表より突く。

Omote Katate Zuki

When you both are in the same kamae as above, when you see the enemy lower his sword to gedan, thrust from the omote side with one hand.

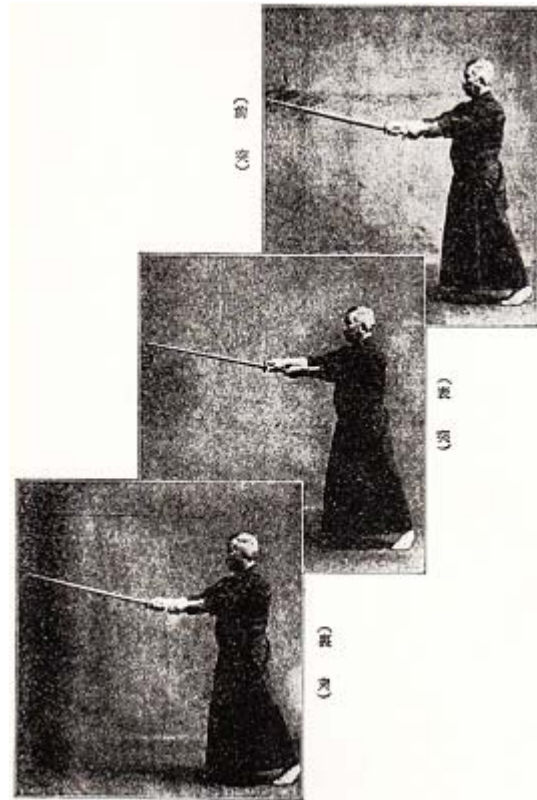
裏突

雙方右と同じ構にある時、敵の太刀を右より押へ、諸手にて突く。

Ura Zuki

When you are both in the same kamae as above, press the enemy's sword from the right and thrust with both hands.

入突



雙方下段の構にて相對して居る時、敵より突き来るを、手を返して引入れ、突き返して突く。

Ire Zuki

When you are facing each other in gedan, as the enemy comes to thrust, turn over your hands, pull in, and counter the thrust with a thrust.

NOTE: This is the name Takano sensei uses for the main technique of tachi no kata no sambonme.

籠手押前突

敵中段、我は下段にて相對して居る時、敵の右籠手を撃ち、表より敵の太刀の鐔元を押へ、其の儘突き込む。

Kote Osae Mae Zuki

When the enemy is in chudan and you are in gedan, strike the enemy's right kote, press on the tsubamoto of the enemy's sword from omote, and from there thrust in.

出頭突

敵下段、我は中段にて相對し、敵より進まんとする頭を、諸手にて太刀を眞直に向へ伸ばせば、敵より自然に突き掛る。

Degashira Tsuki

Facing each other, the enemy in gedan and you in chudan, as the first enemy advances, if you extend the sword directly forward with both hands, the enemy will naturally run into your thrust.

上段變化突

敵下段、我は左上段にて敵より進まんとする頭を、上段より其の太刀を誘ひ引入れ突く。

Jodan Henka Tsuki

As the enemy is in gedan and you are in hidari jodan, as the enemy first begins to advance, from jodan match up with their sword, pull it in, and thrust.

NOTES: The action of pulling in is described using the same language as is used in irezuki, 引入れ-hikiire, suggesting the two use similar mechanics. Also, while in current Japanese 誘う means "invite", "lure", "induce", the character has an archaic reading いざなう as well as an slightly different meaning along the lines of "go along together with". Chiba Shusaku describes the analogous technique in his curriculum, jodan hikiire zuki, against the enemy's katatezuki using the phrase "此の方上段より其の太刀に添ひ、引き入れて突く"- "you meet their sword from jodan, pull in, and thrust". The pertinent verb in this description is 添ふ (そう) which means "go along with" or "suit". It's the intransitive partner to 添える, the soeru that give the soe in soete tsuki in seitei iai.

巻落突

互に下段中段等にて相對し居るを、敵より我が面に撃ち来る時、右或は左へ巻落し突く。

Makiotoshi Zuki

While facing each other in gedan, chudan, etc., when the enemy strikes at your men, perform makiotoshi to the left or to the right and thrust.

NOTE: As previously noted for makiotoshi men in Part 1, this makiotoshi is clearly not the same technique as the shikake waza that is more commonly known these days. It may be similar to the makiotoshi of Shinto Muso Ryu.

抜突

雙方同前の構にて相對し居る時、敵より我が面へ撃ち來るを、左又は右斜に體を抜き、敵の太刀下を潜り抜け、咽喉部を突く。

Nuke Zuki

When you are facing each other in the same kamae as above, as the enemy strikes at your men, move your body diagonally to the left or right, escape from underneath the enemy's sword, and thrust to the enemy's throat.

突返突

雙方右と同じ構にて相對し居る時、敵より此方へ突き來るを、手を返して刃を敵の左に向け、突き返し突く。

Tsuki Kaeshi Zuki

When you are facing each other in the same kamae as above, as the enemy thrusts at you, turn the blade to the enemy's left turning over your hands and counter the thrust with a thrust.

NOTE: I have seen this phrase used to describe an action in the Gogyo no Kata no nihonme. Takano sensei introduced the Gogyo no Kata to the gekkenbu (kendo club) of Tokyo Normal University (東京高等師範学校) from Nakanishi-ha Itto Ryu (then still called Ono-ha Itto Ryu) in 1904. However, I do not know what said technique involves as I am unfamiliar with the kata, so I cannot say if it is the same as the technique here.

I have also seen this label used for the technique in Nihon Kendo Kata no sambonme, but Takano sensei calls that irezuki.

May

25

Pre-War Kendo 3: Kote Waza

kendo, prewar-kendo, series, waza

[Add comments](#)by [Kent Enfield](#)

In parts [one](#) and [two](#) of this series, I translated the sections of Takano Sasaburo's Kendo Kyohan describing techniques for men and tsuki. In this part, I translate the section for kote techniques.

As in part two, I have included the section on how to strike kote [籠手の撃方] from the chapter on basic practice [基本練習].

籠手撃

兩臂の間から敵の籠手の見える程振上げて、正面から籠手へ撃込む。右足から進み、左足は之に伴ふのであるが、腹で進む心持で進むことが肝要である。籠手撃の場合は、手先だけで撃つやうになり易いからである。

Kote Uchi

Swing up until you can see the enemy's kote between your arms, and strike kote from the front. Advance from the right foot, and follow it with the left, but the feeling of advancing with your abdomen is essential. This is because in the case of kote uchi it is easy to strike as if using just your fingers.

巻籠手撃

手元で小圓を描く心持で、切先で巻込むやうに敵の右籠手に撃込む。足の運方は前と同様。

Maki Kote Uchi

With the feeling of drawing a small circle, spiral in with your sword tip and strike the enemy's right kote. The footwork is the same as above.

抜籠手撃

左足を左方に踏出し、右足も之に伴つて左足の前に進め、劍尖は敵刀の下から半圓を描き、初歩の間は大きく抜き、敵の右籠手に撃込む。

Nuki Kote Uchi

Step to the left with the left foot. Accompany it with the right foot, and advance the right foot in front of the left. Describe a half circle under the enemy's sword with your sword tip. During the first step make a large evasion, then strike the enemy's right kote.



Now the section on kote techniques.

其の三 籠手十二種

Twelve for Kote

應用籠手

敵中段、我は下段にて相對し居る時、敵の太刀の中程を押す。敵は押されまいと押し返すのを、押されつゝ其の刀を利用し、敵の太刀を外し、敵の太刀の下より巻籠手に籠手を撃つ。

Oyo Kote

When you are facing each other, the enemy in chudan and you in gedan, press the middle of the enemy's sword. As the enemy pushes back in order to not be pushed, make use of this and avoid his sword, wrap around under it, and strike makikote.

擔ぎ籠手

互に下段・中段等にて相對して居る時、太刀を左肩に取り、敵の右籠手を横筋違に撃つ。

Katsugi Kote

When facing each other in gedan, chudan, etc., bring your sword to your left shoulder and strike the enemy's right kote on an angle from the side.

上籠手

雙方右と同じ構にて相對して居る時、敵が上段に構へんと上ぐる所を透さず撃つ。

Age Kote

When both parties are facing each other in the same kamae as above, when the enemy raises up to assume jodan, strike without a moment's delay.

出頭籠手

雙方下段構相對して居る時、敵より我が面或は籠手を撃たんとする出頭の籠手を撃つ。

Degashira Kote

When both parties are facing each other in gedan, strike kote the moment the enemy initiates striking your men or kote.

摺上籠手

雙方下段・中段等の構にて相對して居り、敵より我が面の撃ち來るを、我が太刀を右肩に取り、摺上げて敵の右籠手を撃つ。

Suriage Kote

When you are facing each other in gedan, chudan, etc., as the enemy comes to strike at your men, bring the sword to your right shoulder to perform suriage and strike the enemy's right kote.

突沸籠手



雙方同前の構、敵より左片手にて此方に突き来るを左に拂ひ除け、敵の右籠手を撃つ。

Tsuki Barai Kote

When both are in the same kamae as above, as the enemy thrusts at you left handed, sweep it away to the left and strike the enemy's right kote.

上段籠手

敵下段又は中段、我は上段にて面を撃たんとする色を示せば、敵が下がれば内籠手を撃つ。

Jodan Kote

When the enemy is in gedan or chudan and you are in jodan, if you show signs of striking men, the enemy will certainly try to defend against this, so strike his right kote. If in this case the enemy lowers the tip of his sword, strike the inside kote.

右上段籠手

右上段に構へて居るのを、敵が中段又は下段より我が籠手或は面へ撃つて来る時、左足より一步退き、大きく抜き、敵の太刀を外し、一步踏み込み右籠手を撃つ。

Migi Jodan Kote

When the enemy tries to strike your kote or men from chudan or gedan while you are in migi jodan, take one step backward from the left foot, making a large evasion and avoid the enemy's sword, then step in one step and strike the right kote.

誘籠手

互に下段或は中段の構にて相對して居る時、敵の右籠手を撃たんと色を示せば、敵も必ず其の籠手に撃つて来るものである。それを受け、拂ひなどして敵の右籠手を撃つ。

Sasoi Kote

When facing each other in gedan or chudan, if you show signs of attacking the enemy's right kote, the enemy will certainly try to attack your own kote. Block, parry, etc. this and strike the enemy's right kote.

止籠手

前項の通りに構へ、敵より我が右籠手へ撃つて来るのを、鰐元にて受止め、其の儘小さく敵の右籠手を撃つ。間合により物打の鎧にて摺上げ撃つても宜しい。

Tome Kote

In the same kamae as above, as the enemy tries to strike your right kote or men, block with the tsuba moto and from there strike the enemy's right kote with a small motion. Depending on the distance, you can also perform suriage with the shinogi of the monouchi then strike.

折敷籠手

前項の通りに構へ、敵より我が面へ撃つて来るのを、左の膝を突き、折敷いて撃つ。

Orishiki Kote

In the same kamae as above, as the enemy comes to strike your men, put your the left knee down on the floor and strike, kneeling.

巻籠手

雙方右と同じ構、敵より我が籠手を撃たんとする所を下より巻き、小さく籠手を撃つ。

Maki Kote

With both in the same kamae as above, as the enemy tries to strike your kote, wrap around underneath and strike kote with a small motion.

Pre-War Kendo 4: Do Waza

kendo, prewar kendo, series, waza

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by [Kent Enfield](#)

In the first three parts of this series, I translated the sections of Takano Sasaburo's Kendo Kyohan describing techniques for men, tsuki, and kote. In this part, I translate the section for do techniques.

As in part two, I have included the section on how to strike do [胴の撃方] from the chapter on basic practice [基本練習]. Note that for basic migi do, Takano sensei uses ayumi ashi, striking with the left foot forward.

右胴

兩臂の間より敵胴の見える程振冠り、左足から稍左斜前方に進み、右足は之に伴ひ、斜左上から兩臂を伸ばして敵の右胴に撃込む。此の場合、兩腕の交叉點は體の中央前に来るやうにし、且兩腕で抱き挟み、刀の動搖せぬやうに心掛ける。刃は右に向ける。

Migi Do

Swing up until you can see the enemy's do between your arms. Advance slightly diagonally left with the left foot, and accompany it with the right foot. Stretching out both arms, strike the enemy's right do diagonally from the upper left. In this case, the crossing of your arms comes directly in front of your body, but bear in mind not to let your sword stray, holding it between your arms. Turn the edge to the right.

左胴

兩臂の間より敵胴の見える程振冠り、右足から右斜前方に進み、左足は之に伴ひ、斜右上から兩臂を伸ばして敵の左胴に撃込む。刃は左に向ける。

Hidari Do

Swing up until you can see the enemy's do between your arms. Advance diagonally to the right with the right foot, and accompany it with the left foot. Stretching out both arms, strike the enemy's left do diagonally from the upper right. Turn the edge to the left.

Now the section on do techniques.



Now the section on do techniques.

其の四 胴七種

Seven for Do

摺上胴

敵上段又は中段に構へ、我は中段又は下段に構へて相對し居る時、敵より我が面へ撃込み来るを、摺上げ、折敷きながら胴を撃つ。

Suriage Do

When you are facing each other with the enemy in jodan or chudan, etc., and you in chudan or gedan, as the enemy tries to strike your men, perform suriage, and strike do while kneeling.

折敷胴

互に下段・中段等に構へ相對し居る時、敵より我が面へ撃込み来る。其の太刀に構はずして、迅速に摺れ違ひつゝ折敷き胴を撃つ。

Orishiki Do

When facing each other in gedan, chudan, etc., the enemy will come to strike your men. Quickly kneel and strike do, paying no heed to his sword as it passes by.

NOTE: 摺れ違ふ (surechigau-usually written 擦れ違ふ or すれ違ふ) means for two things to miss or pass by each other, but I felt that if I translated it as such, people would read it as either both missing or running past each other, neither of which is the case.

立胴

前項の通りに構へ、敵より我が面へ飛び込み手を伸ばして撃ち来るを、其の太刀に構はず如何にも早く胴に抜け、折敷きを爲さず立ちながら撃つ。

Tachi Do

In the same kamae as above, as the enemy strikes at your men, flying in and stretching out his arms, pay no heed to his sword and quickly indeed dodge and strike do. Strike while standing and not kneeling.

片手面胴

前項の通りに構へ、敵より突いて来るのを、體を敵の左に抜き、片手にて敵の左半面を撃ち、又は手を返へして敵の右胴を撃つ。

Katate Men Do

In the same kamae as above, as the enemy come to thrust, open your body to the enemy's left and strike the enemy's left men with one hand. Then turning over your hands and strike the enemy's right do.

NOTE: The 又は was a source of trouble in translating this technique. 又, without は, is often used similarly to "moreover," "furthermore," "then," or "and" in English, but 又は is, to my knowledge, exclusively used in listing alternatives. That is, it means "or" in English. However, translating it as such would make this into two separate



techniques, katete men or do. That doesn't make sense given that it appears in the section on do techniques, and that katete men against tsuki was already described under hanmiuchimen. Thus, I believe that the は in the original is a mistake and have translated the sentence as if it weren't there. Thanks to Josh Reyer for providing a second opinion regarding this.

面籠手胴

互に中段の構にて相對して居る時、敵中段より下段に下げんとする所を、一步踏込み正面を撃ち、一步退きて籠手を撃ち、左足を踏出し手を返して敵の左胴を撃つ。

Men Kote Do

When facing each other in chudan no kamae, the moment the enemy tries to lower his sword to gedan, step in one step and strike shomen, take one step back and strike kote, then, stepping forward with the left foot and turning over your hands, strike the enemy's right do.

鐔耀胴

互に鐔耀合となつた時、隙を見て立ちながら胴を撃つ。敵を押す時敵も亦押し返す。其の伸びたる手の下より撃つことがある。之は敵の力を利用する撃方である。

Tsuba Zeri Do

When together in tsubazeriai, upon seeing an opening, strike do while standing. When you push the enemy, the enemy will push back. Strike from under the enemy's extended hands. This is a method for striking using the enemy's power.

籠手懸胴

敵上段、我は下段・中段等にて敵の籠手を撃たんとする色を示せば、敵が其の太刀を避けんとする所を迅速に飛び込み撃つ。

Kote Kakari Do

With the enemy in jodan and you in chudan, gedan, etc., if you show signs of attacking the enemy's kote, the enemy will try to avoid your sword. The moment he does, fly in and strike.

Jun
29

Pre-War Kendo 5: Tsubazeriai and Taiatari

kendo, prewar-kendo, series, waza
by [Kent Enfield](#)[Add comments](#)

In the first four parts of this series, I translated the sections of Takano Sasaburo's Kendo Kyohan concerning techniques for men, tsuki, kote, and do. As I wrote in part one, I originally planned to make a fifth entry translating the sections on tsubazeriai, taiatari, and grappling (kumiuchi). However, the section on grappling was long enough that I decided to make it into its own entry. Thus part five will cover tsubazeriai and taiatari.

Tsubazeriai, taiatari, and kumiuchi are sections three through five of the chapter titled "Information about Shiai" [仕合心得]. Sections one and two of that chapter are "Normal Information" [一般の心得], which covers things like reigi and the notion of fighting fair and square, and "Preparations at Tachiai" [立合の支度].

**鰐糺合****Tsubazeriai****(一) 離方**

敵に接近して鰐糺合となつた時は、速に離れるやうにする。離れ際が大切であつて、必ず敵の?を撃つて引くか、太刀を押へて、敵に手の出せぬやうにして、迅速に引き離れるのである。此の心得なくして、空しく引く時は、敵に乗ぜられ敗を取ることになるのである。

(1) How to Separate

When you have come to tsubazeriai, coming close to the enemy, separate quickly. The moment of separation is worthy of attention, so separate pull back quickly, either striking where the enemy is unprepared or suppressing his sword so that the enemy cannot extend his hands. If you don't know this and pull back ineffectively, you will be defeated by the enemy.

(二) 鰐糺合の心得

鰐糺合となつた時は、身體の縮らぬやうに足腰を伸ばし、頭を起し、敵の顔と我が顔とを並べて丈較べをしても、敵に較べ勝つと思ふ程丈を高くして、強く敵の懷に入り込むのである。之によつて我が心の勇猛強固なることを敵に示し、敵を畏縮せしめるのである。此の心得があれば如何に深く入り込んでも、四肢が伸び々々として、動作も敏速自在になるのである。外形だけでなく、氣分で敵を押へることが必要である。

(2) Information About Tsubazeriai

When you have come to tsubazeriai, extend your legs and waist so that your body doesn't shrink, lift up your face, and even compete in height lining up your face even with that of the enemy. Make yourself tall to the point of feeling that you will defeat the enemy, and enter strongly into the space in front of the enemy (*futokoro*). By doing this, you will reveal the strength and valor in your heart and make the enemy cower. If you have this knowledge and enter quite deeply into the enemy's space, your body will be at ease, and your movements will become free and nimble. This isn't just a physical matter. You must suppress the enemy with your spirit.

體當り

Taiatari

(一) 體當りの方法

體當りといふは、我が身體を以て敵の身體に衝き当たり、敵を突き退け、突き倒し、後撃せしめざる方法である。撃込むと同時に少しく顔を左に側め、右肩を出し、強く弾力あるやうに敵の胸に当たり、同時に雙拳を以て敵の脛に向つて掬ひ上げ、突き倒すのである。熟練すれば敵を二三間も突き退け、突き倒し得るものである。體當たりをすれば敵は突き倒されまいとして、何處かに隙の出来るものである。其の機を逸せず撃込むのである。

(1) How to do Taiatari

Taiatari is colliding your body with the enemy's, knocking them back or knocking them down and preventing them from striking after you do (*ato uchi*). At the same time as you strike, turn your face slightly to the left, put your right shoulder forward, and strike the enemy in the chest in a strong, bouncing manner. At the same time, scoop up with both hands towards the enemy's chin and knock them down. If you are proficient, you can knock the enemy back two or three ken [about 3.5 to 5.5 meters] when you knock them down. If you do taiatari, the enemy will try to not be knocked down, so you can make an opening somewhere. Don't miss this chance to strike.

(二) 體當りの受方

敵が當つた來る時は、體を躲して之を避け、又は「入れ當たり」と稱して、我が體を一旦縮めて復た伸ばして敵に當たる。敵が強く烈しく當つて來ても、之を柔かに受けて突き外し、如何なる大力の者が突き掛けて來ても、平然として突き外し、突き返し得るやうに鍛鍊すべきである。敵が強く突いて來る時には、右にでも左にでも、我が體を稍斜にして受ける時は凌ぎ易い。體當たりは平生からよく練習して置くべきである。

(2) How to Receive Taiatari

When the enemy comes to collide, shift your body and avoid it, or in what is called "*ireatari*", momentarily shrink down then stretch out again to strike the enemy. Even if the enemy comes in strongly and furiously, you can receive it easily or avoid it. You should train until you can calmly dodge or push back even when someone of incredible strength comes at you. When the enemy pushes strongly, if you receive by turning your body slightly diagonally to either the right or the left, it is easy to stave him off. You should practice taiatari regularly and often.